

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 12, of the Substitute Specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- If an attempt is ~~ma(4e)~~made to build a data warehouse system in a distributed environment, therefore, the attempt will be confronted with many performance problems because of the mass of data which has to be handled, and because more complicated queries to those data warehouses are needed than the conventional database retrieval processings. As for the amount of data to be handled, a data warehouse of several TB (tera bytes: 10^{12} bytes) has already been built as of March 1998. A preferred example of such a complicated query processing is described in "TPC BENCHMARK D (Decision Support) Standard Specification" (Revision 1.2.2, Transaction Processing Performance Council). The benchmark is widely accepted in the concerned fields because it is a typical model of complicated data mining queries in a data warehouse. For example, if a series of the TPC-D queries are issued for a mass of data (1TB), it will take a long time, such as from several tens of minutes to a few hours, even when the fastest computer in the world as of May of 1998 is used. --